

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-19 are now present in this application. Claims 1 and 16 are independent. Claims 1, 5, 10 and 16 have been amended and claim 19 has been added. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 and 3-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the prior art disclosed by Applicant in FIG. 1-3 of the application (AAPA) in view of Darden (5,460,212) and Sueyoshi (2002/0152582). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the supporting member is disposed between the handle and a securing mechanism configured to secure a corresponding handle holder to the side of the door so as to absorb a force applied to the handle and reinforce a strength of the handle holder. Independent claim 16 includes similar features in a varying scope.

These features are supported at least by Figure 4. For example, Figure 4 illustrates the supporting member 40 being disposed between the handle 30 and a securing mechanism 16 configured to secure a corresponding handle holder 10 to the side of the door 20 so as to absorb a force F applied to the handle 30 and reinforce a strength of the handle holder 10 (see also paragraphs [0054] and [0061]).

The Office Action relies on Sueyoshi as teaching a groove 12 being used for inserting a supporting member 17 and relies on Darden as teaching other features of the supporting member. The Office Action also indicates it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art to incorporate the groove of Sueyoshi and the supporting member and groove shape of Darden into the handle holder and refrigerator door of the admitted prior art to provide a more secure connection between the handle holder and door thereby providing the structure substantially as claimed.

However, it is respectfully noted the alleged supporting member 17 in Sueyoshi is a sheet member made of a synthetic resin. Clearly, the sheet member 17 is not a supporting member as claimed by the present invention. In addition, as shown in Figure 2 of Sueyoshi, the resin sheet 17 is not disposed between the securing mechanism 18 and the handle 7. Rather, the resin sheet 17 is disposed on an outside of the securing mechanism 18. In addition, the sheet member 17 not being disposed as in the present invention thus does not absorb a force applied to the handle and reinforce a strength to the handle holder.

In addition, Applicant's previously presented arguments that Darden is not analogous art is maintained. That is, Darden relates to a replaceable cutting tool for a wood debarking tool, where the protrusion 94 is fit into the groove to prevent the replaceable cutting tool 90 from sliding. The Darden reference is not "in the field of applicant's endeavor," (designing handles for refrigerators) and is not "reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was concerned" (preventing breakage of the handle holder). Therefore, under the Federal Circuit guiding precedent of *In re Oetiker*, the Darden reference cannot be relied on as a basis for rejection of Applicant's invention.

That is, Darden merely teaches a bit 90 being extended further from a frame 4 of a cutting tool 20 (see Figure 2, for example). The bit 90 is secured to the tool 20 via a bolt 104 as shown in Figure 3. It is respectfully submitted one skilled in the art clearly would not rely on the bit mechanism 90 in Darden and combine these features with a car door in Sueyoshi.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1 and 16 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

Further, dependent claim 5 and new claim 19 recite that the supporting member and the hand holder are a single piece as shown in Figure 5, for example. This clearly differs from the bit member 90 and securing mechanism in Darden. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted dependent claims 5 and 19 further define over the applied art.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently

outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone David A. Bilodeau, Registration No. 42,235, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

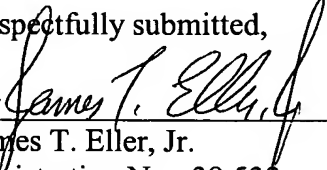
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By


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